



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GERALDINE NICHOLSON, an
individual, et al.,

Plaintiffs,
vs.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES, et al.,
Defendants.

CASE NO. CV15-07594 DDP(RAOx)

Hon. Dean D. Pregerson – Ctrm.3, 2nd Fl

Hon. Mag Judge Rozella A. Oliver – Ctrm.F, 9th Fl

**PROTECTIVE ORDER RE:
DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION**

Plaintiff is seeking materials and information that Defendant City of Los Angeles (“City”) maintains as confidential, such as personnel files of the police officers involved in this incident, Force Investigation Division materials and information, Internal Affairs materials and information, and other administrative materials and information currently in the possession of the City and which the City believes need special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation;

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1 WHEREAS, Plaintiff is also seeking official information contained in the
2 personnel files of the involved police officers, LAPD Officers, which the City
3 maintains as strictly confidential and which the City believes need special protection
4 from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this
5 litigation;

6 WHEREAS, the City asserts that the confidentiality of the materials and
7 information sought by Plaintiff is recognized by California and federal law, as
8 evidenced *inter alia* by *California Penal Code* section 832.7 and *Kerr v. United States*
9 *Dist. Ct. for N.D. Cal.*, 511 F.2d 192, 198 (9th Cir. 1975), *aff'd*, 426 U.S. 394 (1976);

10 WHEREAS, the City has not publicly released the materials and information
11 referenced above except under protective order or pursuant to court order, if at all;

12 WHEREAS, the City contends these materials and information are of the type
13 that has been used to initiate disciplinary action against Los Angeles Police
14 Department ("LAPD") officers, and has been used as evidence in disciplinary
15 proceedings, where the officers' conduct was considered to be contrary to LAPD
16 policy;

17 WHEREAS, the City contends that absent a protective order delineating the
18 responsibilities of nondisclosure on the part of the parties hereto, there is a specific risk
19 of unnecessary and undue disclosure by one or more of the many attorneys, secretaries,
20 law clerks, paralegals and expert witnesses involved in this case, as well as the
21 corollary risk of embarrassment, harassment and professional and legal harm on the
22 part of the LAPD officers referenced in the materials and information;

23 WHEREAS, the City contends that the unfettered disclosure of the materials and
24 information, absent a protective order, would allow the media to share this information
25 with potential jurors in the area, impacting the rights of the City herein to receive a fair
26 trial.

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3 **ORDER ON STIPULATION**

4 The Court, having found good cause, Orders as follows:

5 1. Defendants (hereinafter “Disclosing Party(ies)”) may designate as
6 confidential any personnel files, videos, Internal Affairs materials or any other
7 materials or writing that they, in good faith, believe is protected from disclosure within
8 the meaning of FRCivP 26(g), in that they believe the material contains confidential or
9 private information. Such materials may be classified as subject to this protective
10 order by marking the material, each document or writing with a watermark that
11 includes words such as “Confidential,” “Confidential Documents,” “Confidential
12 Material,” “Subject to Protective Order,” or words of a similar effect, and that includes
13 the case name and case number. Materials and writings so designated, and all
14 privileged information derived therefrom [hereinafter collectively referred to as
15 “Confidential Material”], shall be treated in accordance with the terms of this Order.
16 In making this designation, the Disclosing Parties are also representing that no portion
17 of the materials is segregable and, therefore, subject to production without restriction
18 as “Confidential.”
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20 2. Confidential Material may be used by the persons receiving such
21 information [hereinafter “Receiving Party(ies)”) only for the purpose of litigation of
22 this case, and for such other purposes as permitted by law.

23 3. This Order applies not only to the Confidential Material, but also to (1)
24 any information copied or extracted from the Confidential Material; (2) all copies,
25 excerpts, summaries or compilations of Confidential Material; and (3) any testimony,
26 conversations, or presentations by Receiving Parties that might reveal Confidential
27 Material.
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1 4. The Confidential Material may only be disclosed to the Court and to the
2 following “qualified” persons:

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5 (a) Counsel of record for the parties to this civil litigation;
6 (b) Defendants City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Police
7 Department;

8 (c) Attorneys, paralegals, law clerks, stenographic, clerical and
9 secretarial personnel who are employees in the offices of counsel referred to in
10 subparagraph (a);

11 (d) Parties to the litigation;

12 (e) Expert witnesses consulted and/or retained for this action; and

13 (f) The judge and court personnel, including stenographic reporters.
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15 5. Prior to the disclosure of any Confidential Material to any person
16 described in paragraph 3(a), (c) or (d), counsel for the Receiving Party who seeks to
17 use or disclose such Confidential Material shall first provide a copy of this Stipulation
18 and have the individual to whom the Receiving Party intends to disclose said
19 Confidential Material sign the Nondisclosure Agreement set forth in Attachment “A”,
20 stating that the person has received and read a copy of the Stipulation and understands
21 that s/he is bound by the terms of the Stipulation.

22 6. Unless made on the record in this litigation, counsel making the disclosure
23 to any qualified person described herein shall retain the original executed copy of the
24 Nondisclosure Agreements until thirty (30) days after this litigation has become final,
25 including any appellate review, and monitoring of an injunction. Counsel for the
26 Receiving Party shall maintain all signed Nondisclosure Agreements and shall produce
27 the original signature page upon reasonable written notice from opposing counsel. If
28 an issue arises regarding a purported unauthorized disclosure of Confidential Material,

1 upon noticed motion of contempt filed by the Disclosing Parties, counsel for the
2 Receiving Party may be required to file the signed Nondisclosure Agreements, as well
3 as a list of the disclosed materials, in camera with the Court having jurisdiction of the
4 Stipulation.

5 7. The court reporter, videographer, and audiographer, if any, who record all
6 or part of the depositions in this matter shall be subject to this Order. In preparing the
7 original deposition videotape, audiotape, or portions thereof, any copies thereof, or
8 portions of copies thereof, all materials and testimony designated as “Confidential
9 Material”, including testimony derived from the “Confidential Material”, shall be
10 segregated from the rest of the deposition. No copies of such segregated “Confidential
11 Material” portions of the materials described above shall be provided to any persons
12 other than those persons identified in paragraph 4. Nothing in this agreement is
13 intended to limit the rights of third parties to obtain such Confidential Material through
14 discovery and subpoena power in other proceedings, subject to a motion for a
15 protective order filed in those proceedings by the party seeking to prevent disclosure of
16 the Confidential Material.
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18 8. If any “Confidential Material” or testimony derived from such materials
19 occurs at a deposition, those attending such portions of the depositions shall be bound
20 by this Order and, therefore, shall not disclose to any person or entity, in any manner,
21 including orally, any statements made by Defendants City of Los Angeles and Los
22 Angeles Police Department, or any other current or former employee of the Los
23 Angeles Police Department during the “Confidential” sections of said depositions.

24 9. An inadvertent failure to designate qualified materials or items does not,
25 standing alone, waive the Disclosing Party’s right to secure protection under this Order
26 for such material. Upon being notified of the correction of a designation, the
27 Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in
28 accordance with this provisions of this Order.

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5 10. Upon final termination of this litigation, including any appeal pertaining
6 thereto, all materials still classified as Confidential Material at that time, and all copies
7 thereof, including copies provided to any qualified person in paragraph 3 herein above,
8 shall be returned to the Disclosing Party within thirty (30) days.

9 11. If any Receiving Party who receives Confidential Material is served with
10 a subpoena or other request seeking Confidential Material, s/he or it shall immediately
11 give written notice to counsel for the Disclosing Parties, identifying the Confidential
12 Material sought and the time in which production or other disclosure is required. Such
13 notice shall be given sufficiently in advance of the date for production or other
14 disclosure so that the Disclosing Parties have the opportunity to obtain an order barring
15 production or other disclosure, or to otherwise respond to the subpoena or other
16 request for production or disclosure of Confidential Material. The Receiving Party
17 also shall immediately give notice to the party who caused the subpoena or other
18 request to issue that the material is subject to this Order and include a copy of this
19 Order. In no event should production or disclosure be made without prior written
20 approval by the Disclosing Party's Counsel unless required by court order arising from
21 a motion to compel production or disclosure of Confidential Material.

22 12. Any pleadings, motions, briefs, declarations, stipulations, exhibits or other
23 written submissions to the Court in this litigation which contain or incorporate
24 Confidential Material shall be filed and maintained in accordance with Local Rule 79-
25 5, which governs the filing of materials under seal. Any other pleadings, motions,
26 briefs, declarations, stipulations, exhibits or other written submissions that refer but do
27 not contain or incorporate Confidential Material, shall designate the particular aspects
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1 that are confidential so as to enable the Court, in drafting presumptively public orders
2 relating to these filings under seal, to determine whether there is evidence which the
3 Court should attempt not to disclose. If any papers to be filed with the Court contain
4 Confidential Material, the proposed filing shall be accompanied by an application to
5 file the papers or the portion thereof containing the protected information, under seal
6 and that the application shall be directed to the judge to whom the papers are directed.
7 Pending the ruling on the application, the papers or portions thereof subject to the
8 sealing application shall be lodged under seal.

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10 13. Counsel for the parties agree to request that any motions, applications or
11 other pre-trial proceedings which would entail the disclosure of Confidential Material
12 be heard by the Court in a manner that would preserve the confidential nature of the
13 information, unless having heard opposition from counsel to such a process, the Court
14 orders otherwise.

15 14. Nothing herein shall prejudice any party's rights to object to the
16 introduction of any Confidential Material into evidence.

17 15. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate
18 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary
19 sanctions.

20 16. Any party bound by the Order who contests the confidential nature of
21 materials produced pursuant to this Order may move the Court for an order to have the
22 materials removed from the protective order and to have the materials declared not
23 confidential, or otherwise move to modify the Order as to some or all of the materials.

24 17. Any procedures specified above in this Protective Order are in addition to,
25 and not in lieu of, compliance with the local rules regarding discovery motions.
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27 **ATTACHMENT "A"**
28 **NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

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2 I, _____do solemnly swear that I am fully familiar
3 with the terms of the Protective Order entered in *Geraldine Nicholson, et al. v. City of*
4 *Los Angeles, et al.*, United States District Court for the Central District of California,
5 Central Division, Case No. No.CV15-07594 DDP (RAOx), and hereby agree to
6 comply with and be bound by the terms and conditions of said Order. I hereby consent
7 to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District of
8 California for purposes of enforcing this Order.
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10 Dated: _____ Signed: _____
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12 ***IT IS SO ORDERED.***
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14 Dated: August 1, 2016

15 By: Rozella A. Oliver
16 **HONORABLE ROZELLA A. OLIVER**
17 **UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**
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